REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claim for the pending claim with the same number.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein signaling tones that respectively occur in upstream channels and downstream channels are evaluated as the criterion indicating a beginning of a data transmission.

NEW CLAIMS

6. (New) A method for operating high-bit-rate data transmission devices on a subscriber line connecting a subscriber terminal device and a telephone exchange and having a permanent connection between a high-bit-rate transmission device at a subscriber side and a high-bit-rate transmission device at a telephone exchange side, comprising:

monitoring the subscriber line for an occurrence of a pilot tone in an upstream or downstream channel of a xDSL system, for detection in a signaling tone detector of a high-bit-rate transmission device; and

switching the respective high-bit-rate transmission device into an operative state upon detection of a pilot tone,

wherein an occurrence of the pilot tone indicates a beginning of data transmission, and the high-bit-rate transmission device is switched into an operative state only when the pilot tone is detected.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein a digital interface, digital signal processor, analog interface, and a line driver in a high-bit-rate transmission device are switched into an operative state upon detection of a pilot tone.

8. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of monitoring the subscriber line for an occurrence of a pilot tone occurs continuously.

9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of monitoring the subscriber line for an occurrence of a pilot tone occurs at regular intervals.

10. (New) A system for transmitting high-bit-rate data on a subscriber line between a subscriber terminal and a network terminal, said high-bit-rate data to be transmitted in conjunction with any of voice information or low-bit-rate data, comprising:

a first high-bit-rate transmission device connected to a subscriber side of the subscriber line; and

a second high-bit-rate transmission device connected to a network side of the subscriber line,

wherein the high-bit-rate transmission device at either a subscriber side or network side comprises a signaling tone detector for detecting occurrences of a pilot tone in an upstream or downstream channel of an xDSL system, and the signaling tone detector operates separately from components of the high-bit-rate transmission device for performing data transmission.

11. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein components of the high-bit-rate transmission device for performing data transmission include at least one of a digital interface, a digital signal processor, an analog interface, and a line driver.

12. (New) A high-bit-rate transmission device for performing high-bit-rate data transmission between a subscriber side and a network side of a subscriber line, comprising:

a signaling tone detector for detecting occurrences of a pilot tone in an upstream or downstream channel of an xDSL system; and

a plurality of components for performing data transmission, operating separately from the signaling tone detector,

wherein an occurrence of the pilot tone indicates a beginning of data transmission, and the high-bit-rate transmission device is switched into an operative state only when the pilot tone is detected.

13. (New) The device of claim 12, wherein components for performing data transmission include at least one of a digital interface, a digital signal processor, an analog interface, and a line driver.

14. (New) The device of claim 12, wherein the high-bit-rate transmission device operates in an inactive state until a pilot tone is detected in the signaling tone detector.